AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled).

12. (New) A method for providing driving assistance to a driver of a vehicle, comprising:

obtaining a composite lane information regarding a road lane in which the vehicle is traveling, wherein the composite lane information is derived from at least two characterizing information items regarding the lane; and

triggering at least one of an output of driver-assistance information and a vehicle-control action based on the composite lane information.

13. (New) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on lane boundary markings detected from an image of the road lane obtained using a camera.

14. (New) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on objects detected from the image of the road lane.

15. (New) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on at least one of an oncoming vehicle, a preceding vehicle, and a stationary object that marks a boundary of the road lane.

16. (New) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein the composite lane information is derived at least partially based on tracks of a preceding vehicle.

17. (New) The method as recited in claim 14, wherein each information used to derive the composite lane information is assigned a quality index value.

18. (New) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein the assigned quality index value for each information used to derive the composite lane information is considered for deriving the composite lane information.

19. (New) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the quality index value is derived from at least one a contrast of the image and a deviation between stored estimated lane boundary data and measured lane boundary data.

20. (New) The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the composite lane information and the assigned quality index values are transmitted to an analyzer unit for analysis.

21. (New) A driver assistance system for a driver of a vehicle, comprising:

an image sensor unit for obtaining an image of a road lane in which the vehicle is traveling:

an analyzer unit for obtaining a composite lane information regarding the road lane in which the vehicle is traveling, wherein the composite lane information is derived from at least two characterizing information items regarding the road lane; and

a control unit for triggering at least one of an output of driver-assistance information and a vehicle-control action based on the composite lane information.

22. (New) The driver assistance system as recited in claim 21, wherein the analyzer unit ascertains a quality index value for each characterizing information regarding the road lane used to derive the composite lane information.